

**To:** Classification and Districting Committee 2018-2022

**From:** Century Youth Athletic Association; Joe Keizur; Edward Hensley

**cc:** Brad Garrett, Assistant Executive Director

**Date:** 11/7/2016

**Re:** Classification for 2018-2022

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**Introduction:**

High school athletics is an inherently “unfair” endeavor. No classification model will ever provide the perfect mix of safety, travel and competitive balance. Therefore, the task the Committee is charged with is daunting and thankless. The effort of the Committee, despite potential disagreement with its result, should be appreciated. Thank you for taking the time and effort to examine the options.

This proposal was created by a group of high school sports fans/coaches who spend a great deal of time watching and/or coaching youth sports. We represent a small, unscientific set of parents with kids participating in football, basketball, baseball, tennis, golf etc. throughout the Hillsboro/Beaverton area. We are submitting this proposal because we think there are tweaks to be made and this system offers an opportunity or at a minimum a discussion point for the Committee to consider.

**Charge to the Committee:**

According to the OSAA Executive Board Charge to the Committee, members need to consider a graduated set of criteria listed under “section D” of the charge letter.

*Specifically, the committee must FIRST consider the following four criteria before considering supplemental criteria:*

- A. Safety of student athletes, spectators and staff;
- B. Minimizing loss of instructional time;
- C. Minimizing expenditure of district and parent participant funds;
- D. School enrollment data.

*Supplemental criteria may include the following or other unlisted factors:*

- A. School preference;
- B. Creation of similar sized leagues;
- C. Placement of schools within the same school district and class within the same league;
- D. Scheduling issues;
- E. Athletic district history;

- F. Move as few schools as possible;
- G. All schools within a single district including those choosing to play up shall be assigned to the same district unless the school board agrees to a different assignment.

*Additionally, the OSAA Executive Board has requested that the Committee further examine:*

- A. Changing classification cutoff points;
- B. Amending petition to play down/play up language;
- C. Separating classifications differently in football.

Any proposal submitted via the public to the Committee needs to consider all of these factors and the creator of any proposal should provide evidence or explanation for deviation from the criteria.

### **Proposed 5Class/5A Super Conference Model:**

Submitted with this memo is a proposal for consideration by the Classification and Districting Committee. This proposal utilizes a 5 class system with the creation of larger, division based 5A Conferences. The purpose of this model is to minimize travel and loss of instructional time while providing the greatest level of competitive balance over the 4A and 5A levels.

### **Specifics of the 5A Super Conference Model:**

1. Changes the ADM for 5A to 1,000+. All schools at or above 1,000 students as defined by the OSAA become 5A schools. 64 Schools are included in 5A.
2. Changes the ADM for 4A to 325-999 ADM. All schools at or above 325 up to 999 students as defined by the OSAA become 4A schools, unless a school chooses to “play up.” Teams choosing to play up should be assigned to a conference based on proximity OR space available. 60 Schools are included in 4A.
3. All 5A Super Conferences have between 11 and 14 members.
4. Each conference has two (2) divisions, also based on proximity.
5. Each team would play a preponderance of its schedule in its own division, IE Aloha in the Metro West plays the six teams in its division more than others or in football, plays their “league schedule” within their division.
6. Non-conference games can be scheduled throughout 5A but cross classification play (IE 5A vs/ 4A) must be pre-approved by the OSAA.
7. 4A leagues range in size from 6-8 teams and are also based on proximity. Teams play a preponderance of games in league and non-conference games round out their schedules.
8. All classes still subject to RPI/Colley ratings.

9. For football, both classes have a 32 team playoff with division (5A) and league champions (4A) receiving auto births and others receiving births based on strength of schedule.
10. All other sports determine playoff positions based on OSAA recommendation.
11. 3A/2A/1A to be set by the committee using the criteria of the OSAA.

### **Highlights:**

*The 5A Super Conference Proposal creates the following advantages over the existing system:*

1. **Within the Metro Conference**, preserves several rivalries and provides some of the shortest commutes between schools. It takes the PIL's largest and most competitive schools and matches them with the Metro East while creating a Metro West with a great deal of balance.
2. **Within the Mt. Hood Conference**, the East Division keeps travel to the northeast with two schools down I-84. Incorporates Hermiston and Hood River Valley while maintaining traditional matchups in the Mt. Hood division. The Western Division creates less travel and preserves some PIL matchups.
3. **The newly created Cascade Conference** utilizes the OSAA model of putting Bend Area schools with mid-valley schools in 2018. This conference is very malleable and splitting the Bend schools over divisions would create less travel overall. This model essentially would require every team to travel at least once either to Bend or Corvallis out of the Salem/Albany area. Not convenient, but likely the closest via Hwy 22.
4. **Within the Three Rivers Conference**, the East Division maintains traditional rivalries while incorporating new potential rivals. The West Division does the same, keeping traditional rivals while lining up high schools located on Hwy 99.
5. **Within the Southern Conference**, travel is a critical consideration. By dividing into a Northern Division of teams in the Eugene Area and a Southern Division in the Douglas/Jackson County area, programs minimize travel. This is the smallest conference, so some cross division play is recommended (one or two games) as part of league play.
6. **While the 5A Super Conference Proposal eliminates the PIL**, it does not treat the PIL unfairly or not allow the PIL to maintain its rivalries. The 4A Rose City League would be far more competitive in every sport for PIL members under 1,000 ADM and teams within reason could still petition to come up. Furthermore, the placement of 1,000+ ADM PIL Schools are more competitive options. Instead of playing two to three potentially non-competitive league games, these programs (Lincoln, Wilson, Cleveland, Grant and Franklin) would play more competitive league games. The Portland Public School District could still mandate that the former PIL Members play one another as part of their Non-League schedule, thereby preserving their rivalries.

**Options Available:**

1. If the committee is looking to further reduce travel, the committee could consider a situation where NO games are played out of conference. For example, in football, if a 9 game season is required, the Metro Division West would play six (6) games in conference and then three (3) against the East Division. This would eliminate the cost of out of conference jaunts to Roseburg from Portland or from Eugene to Gresham.
2. This could be a football only option with other OSAA classification analysis used for all other sports. We believe this model works across all sports but it especially works for football because of proximity, cost and playoff scenarios.
3. Conferences or school districts within conferences could mandate non-conference scheduling of rivalry games in the event rivals are no longer coupled in their league play. IE, if Wilson has a historical rivalry with Grant, then the PPS could mandate they play each other in their non-conference. Same can be said for schools split by classification. Rivalry would be a viable criterion for the OSAA to approve play within two (2) classifications.

**Compliance with OSAA Criteria:**

*Of the criteria's four primary charges, this proposal would:*

- A. Ensure safety by creating matchups in close proximity;
- B. Minimize the expense of travel;
- C. Minimize loss of instructional time;
- D. Accounts for enrollment data.

*The proposal satisfies additional criteria for consideration by:*

- A. Creating similar sized leagues;
- B. Considers many historical matchups and school preferences.

**Non-Compliance with OSAA Criteria:**

The primary deviation from the OSAA Criteria here is the elimination of conferences and the creation of new, larger conferences. Specifically, this proposal eliminates the existing PIL, placing teams that meet 5A criteria in conferences based on proximity rather than historical matchups and nostalgia. The proposal does create an additional league in 4A, the "Rose City" League that contains several of the PIL's historical teams while allowing the PIL's larger teams to compete against like competition in proximity.

**5 Class/5A Super Conference Model  
1000+ ADM**

| <b>Metro 5A Conference</b> |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| <b>East Division</b>       | <b>ADM</b> |
| Westview Wildcats          | 2508       |
| Sunset Apollos             | 2123       |
| Beaverton Beavers          | 1654       |
| Southridge Skyhawks        | 1614       |
| Lincoln Cardinals          | 1605       |
| Jesuit Crusaders           | 1294       |
| Wilson Trojans             | 1225       |
| <b>West Division</b>       | <b>ADM</b> |
| Aloha Warriors             | 1794       |
| Forest Grove Vikings       | 1654       |
| Glencoe Crimson Tide       | 1471       |
| Century Jaguars            | 1437       |
| Liberty Falcons            | 1372       |
| New Beaverton School       | TBD        |
| Hillsboro Spartans         | 1195       |

| <b>Cascade 5A Conference</b> |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| <b>East Division</b>         | <b>ADM</b> |
| Bend Lava Bears              | 1468       |
| Summit Storm                 | 1391       |
| West Albany Bulldogs         | 1264       |
| Mountain View Cougars        | 1225       |
| South Albany Rebels          | 1158       |
| Lebanon Warriors             | 1052       |
| <b>West Division</b>         | <b>ADM</b> |
| McKay Scots                  | 1768       |
| McNary Celtics               | 1681       |
| South Salem Saxons           | 1578       |
| West Salem Titans            | 1559       |
| Sprague Olympians            | 1490       |
| North Salem Vikings          | 1404       |
| Corvallis Spartans           | 1117       |

| <b>Southern Oregon 5A Conference</b> |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>North Division</b>                | <b>ADM</b> |
| Sheldon Irish                        | 1359       |
| South Eugene Axemen                  | 1345       |
| Willamette Wolverines                | 1198       |
| Thurston Colts                       | 1174       |
| Springfield Millers                  | 1078       |
| Churchill Lancers                    | 1022       |
| <b>South Division</b>                | <b>ADM</b> |
| South Medford Panthers               | 1545       |
| Grants Pass Cavemen                  | 1526       |
| North Medford Black Tornado          | 1477       |
| Roseburg Indians                     | 1394       |
| Crater Comets                        | 1158       |

| <b>Mt. Hood Conference</b> |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| <b>East Division</b>       | <b>ADM</b> |
| David Douglas Scots        | 2499       |
| Barlow Bruins              | 1528       |
| Centennial Eagles          | 1477       |
| Gresham Gophers            | 1369       |
| Hermiston Bulldogs         | 1240       |
| Sandy Pioneers             | 1215       |
| Hood River Valley Eagles   | 1171       |
| <b>West Division</b>       | <b>ADM</b> |
| Clackamas Cavaliers        | 2297       |
| Reynolds Raiders           | 2142       |
| Oregon City Pioneers       | 1940       |
| Cleveland Warriors         | 1478       |
| Grant Generals             | 1376       |
| Franklin Quakers           | 1346       |
| Central Catholic Rams      | 891        |

| <b>Three Rivers 5A Conference</b> |            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <b>East Division</b>              | <b>ADM</b> |
| West Linn Lions                   | 1707       |
| Canby Cougars                     | 1316       |
| Lake Oswego Lakers                | 1307       |
| Silverton Foxes                   | 1149       |
| Lakeridge Pacers                  | 1126       |
| Wilsonville Wildcats              | 1077       |
| Putnam Kingsmen                   | 1034       |
| <b>West Division</b>              | <b>ADM</b> |
| McMinnville Grizzlies             | 1793       |
| Tigard Tigers                     | 1771       |
| Tualatin Timberwolves             | 1770       |
| Sherwood Bowmen                   | 1569       |
| St. Mary's Academy Blues          | 1435       |
| Newberg Tigers                    | 1414       |
| Woodburn Bulldogs                 | 1256       |

**4A Class  
325-999 ADM**

| <b>Rose City 4A League</b> | <b>ADM</b> |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Madison Senators           | 909        |
| Milwaukie Mustangs         | 844        |
| Parkrose Broncos           | 774        |
| Benson Techmen             | 750        |
| Roosevelt Roughriders      | 742        |
| La Salle Prep Falcons      | 679        |
| Gladstone Gladiators       | 631        |
| Jefferson Democrats        | 417        |

| <b>Cowapa 4A League</b>  | <b>ADM</b> |
|--------------------------|------------|
| St. Helens Lions         | 842        |
| Scappoose Indians        | 721        |
| Tillamook Cheesemakers   | 533        |
| Astoria Fishermen        | 511        |
| Valley Catholic Valiants | 384        |
| Seaside Seagulls         | 375        |
| Banks Braves             | 358        |

| <b>Midwestern 4A League</b> | <b>ADM</b> |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Crescent Valley Raiders     | 937        |
| North Eugene Highlanders    | 771        |
| Marist Catholic Spartans    | 563        |
| Newport Cubs                | 550        |
| Junction City Tigers        | 492        |
| Philomath Warriors          | 444        |
| Elmira Falcons              | 345        |
| Creswell Bulldogs           | 342        |

| <b>Tri-Valley 4A League</b> | <b>ADM</b> |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Molalla Indians             | 662        |
| North Marion Huskies        | 530        |
| Estacada Rangers            | 474        |
| Corbett Cardinals           | 379        |
| Dallas Dragons              | 918        |
| Central Panthers            | 859        |
| Cascade Cougars             | 683        |
| Taft Tigers                 | 359        |

| <b>Intermountain 4A League</b> | <b>ADM</b> |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Ridgeview Ravens               | 854        |
| Redmond Panthers               | 808        |
| Crook County Cowboys           | 703        |
| Madras White Buffaloes         | 641        |
| Sweet Home Huskies             | 639        |
| Stayton Eagles                 | 608        |
| Sisters Outlaws                | 404        |

| <b>Northeast 4A League</b> | <b>ADM</b> |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Pendleton Buckaroos        | 779        |
| The Dalles Riverhawks      | 706        |
| Ontario Tigers             | 541        |
| La Grande Tigers           | 539        |
| Baker Bulldogs             | 434        |
| McLoughlin Pioneers        | 400        |

| <b>Southeast 4A League</b> | <b>ADM</b> |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Ashland Grizzlies          | 940        |
| Eagle Point Eagles         | 911        |
| Klamath Union Pelicans     | 640        |
| Phoenix Pirates            | 621        |
| Henley Hornets             | 581        |
| Mazama Vikings             | 572        |
| Hidden Valley Mustangs     | 535        |
| North Valley Knights       | 462        |

| <b>Southwest 4A League</b> | <b>ADM</b> |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Marshfield Pirates         | 682        |
| Cottage Grove Lions        | 648        |
| North Bend Bulldogs        | 491        |
| Brookings-Harbor Bruins    | 449        |
| Sutherlin Bulldogs         | 357        |
| Douglas Trojans            | 352        |
| Siuslaw Vikings            | 347        |
| South Umpqua Lancers       | 336        |

3A/2A/1A TBD by committee